

POLS 4553
Contemporary Political Thought
Instructor: Dr. Sam Watson

Spring Semester 2024
Midwestern State University
209 Prothro-Yeager
11 am- 12:20 pm T,R

Office: O'Donohoe 119
Phone: 397-4746
Hours: By appointment

Course Description

POLS 4553 is an upper division undergraduate lecture course that examines the fundamental ideas and principles behind the predominant political ideologies of our time.

Course Goals

The purpose of the course is for each student to develop a deeper understanding of the alternative views of political, economic, and social organization which have competed for dominance over the last century.

Required Materials

1) Terence Ball, Richard Dagger, and Daniel O'Neill; Political Ideologies and the Democratic Ideal, 11th edition (Routledge)

Strongly Recommended Materials

- 1) Terence Ball, Richard Dagger, and Daniel O'Neill; Political Ideologies and the Democratic Ideal: A Reader, 11th edition (Routledge)
- 2) A current map of the world and the United States.
- 2) Gregory M. Scott and Stephen M. Garrison, The Political Science Students Writer's Manual
- 3) Jon Furberg and Richard Hopkins, College Style Sheet

Resource Materials

The University (Moffett) Library contains valuable resources which can aid students in their study and research for this course. In addition to many relevant books, a number of periodicals will be particularly useful (recent issues will be found on the current periodicals shelves; back issues are either bound or on microfilm/microfiche). A list of selected periodicals available in the library and local sources of broadcast media significant for political science research is attached to this syllabus.

Course Requirements

First Examination	2/20	20 percent
Second Examination	4/2	20 percent
Term Paper	4/25	25 percent
Final Examination	5/7 (1 pm)	25 percent
Attendance		10 percent

The midterm and final examinations consist of a series of short answer questions. The second exam tests only the material covered since the first exam. The final exam, however, is cumulative.

The paper assignment requires students, in consultation with the instructor, to select an appropriate topic and prepare a properly referenced (APA or MLA style), fifteen to twenty paged, typed, double spaced paper. The instructor requests each student to prepare a brief prospectus and meet with him in an individual conference before finalizing a paper topic. All conferences must be held by February 15. The specific due date for the term paper is April 25.

In order to pass this class, a student must participate. Participation means coming to and preparing for class. Attendance will be checked periodically by signature sheet.

Topics and Schedule of Assignments

--Introductory session	1/16
--Ideology and Ideologies (Text, chapter 1)	1/18
--The Democratic Ideal (Text, chapter 2)	1/23, 25
--Liberalism (Text, chapter 3)	1/30; 2/1, 6
--Conservatism (Text, chapter 4)	2/8, 13, 15
--Socialism and Communism: More to Marx (Text, chapter 5)	2/22, 27, 29

--Socialism and Communism after Marx (Text, chapter 6)	3/5, 7
--Fascism (Text, chapter 7)	3/19, 21, 26
--Liberation Ideologies and the Politics of Identity (Text, chapter 8)	4/4, 9, 16
-- Green Politics: Ecology as Ideology (Text, chapter 9)	4/18, 23
--Radical Islamism (Text, chapter 10)	4/25, 30
--The Future of Ideology (Text, chapter 11)	5/2

No Class

3/12, 14 – Spring Break
3/28 – Holiday Break
4/11